

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A die for forming a honeycomb body, the die comprising a ~~structure plate having a predetermined size and~~ provided with:  
\_\_\_\_\_ groovy slits formed on a front face thereof, the slits being formed by cell blocks; and  
\_\_\_\_\_ back holes on a back face thereof, each hole being communicatively connected with the slit,  
\_\_\_\_\_ wherein the number of the cell blocks per one side of the die is an even number, and the back holes are disposed at every other position of the cell blocks.  
~~\_\_\_\_\_ a plurality of cell blocks on a front face thereof, the cell blocks being basically defined by four slits; and~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_ a plurality of back holes on a back face of the die, each back hole being communicatively connected with a cross point of a predetermined slit,~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_ wherein a plurality of cell blocks are disposed per one side of the die.~~

8. (Currently Amended) A die for forming a honeycomb body according to claim 7, wherein curved portions ~~having a radius of curvature of 0.5 to 1.5 mm~~ are formed at four corners of ~~an~~ a peripheral portion of the die, and a radius of curvature of the curved portions is 0.5 to 1.5 mm.

9. (Currently Amended) A die for forming a honeycomb body according to claim 7, wherein the die is made of ~~cemented carbide~~ hard metal having high ~~wear~~ abrasion resistance.

10. (Currently Amended) A die for forming a honeycomb body according to claim 9, wherein the ~~cemented carbide~~ hard metal is formed by compacting, followed by sintering at high temperature, a hard metal carbide compound powder of transition metal element series with an iron group metal binder having ~~toughness~~ tenacity.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A die for forming a honeycomb body according to claim 7, wherein a thickness of the die is 15 to 30 μmm.